

- This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks file on 7/8/08.
- Claims 1, 3, and 4 are presented for further examination.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/17/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that:

(1) Ahmed, Fairbairn nor Cunningham failed to either singularly or in combination teach or suggest every element recited in claims 1, 3, and 4 specifically on the limitation of "accessing a house code managing site on the Internet by the network controller" in Claim 1.

Examiner disagrees.

(1) Office Action filed on 07/08/2008 disclosing that Ahmed teaches the limitation of "accessing a house code managing site on the Internet by the network controller" (see Col 8, Lines 26-34 and Col 9, Lines 39 of Ahmed);

NT of Ahmed is the network controller, it has capability to access the network as demonstrated in Ahmed in Col 4, Lines 3-14. NT of Ahmed, is capable to accessing a UHMN (in another words, establish connection to the Internet or other network or system, in this case, establishing connection/communication with a UHMN). A UHMN in Ahmed (see Col 9, Lines 38-40 and Col 11, Lines 55-60) is a gateway computer owned by a communication service provider, and UHMN is thus interpreted as "a house code managing sites", UHMN is also capable to manage house code (see Col 9, Lines 26-34).

Therefore, the combination of Ahmed, Fairbairn and Cunningham disclose every limitation as opposed from the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahmed et al hereinafter Ahmed (US 6,058,355) in view of Fairbairn (EP 0120640) and in further view of Cunningham et al hereinafter Cunningham (US 2002/0011923).

1. Referring to Claim 1, Ahmed disclosed a method for identifying multiple home networks each having a plurality of home appliances connected to respective adapters and a network controller, and at least two network share one communication line, the method comprising steps of:

Setting a house code on each of the adapters to the home appliances for identifying home networks by: putting a house code setting program (must have the program installed in the NT in order to receive the house code) into operation in the network controller (NT, refer to Col 4, Lines 4), accessing a house code managing site on the Internet by the network controller (acquiring a house code, refer to Col 8, Lines 26-34 and Col 9, Lines 39); receiving (bi-directional communication, refer to Col 5, Lines 34-45, and Col 8, Lines 2-5), at the network

controller, a house code (refer to Col 10, Lines 20-42) assigned from the house code managing site (UHMN, refer to Col 5, Lines 24), transferring the house code to a relevant adapter (UMSN, refer to Col 10, Lines 33-35), and the adapter storing the house code to a relevant memory region (refer to Col 11, Lines 20-24, UMSN will adapt the code, refer to Col 8, Lines 2-5, Col 11, Lines 20-24); receiving a packet including the house code on the communication line at the adapters (refer to Col 11, Lines 24-26),

Although Ahmed disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed is silent regarding “comparing a preset house code to the house code included in the packet; and one of the adapters understanding that the packet is directed to the one of the adapters if the two house codes are in conformity as a result of the comparison, and transferring the packet to one of the home appliances connected thereto.”

Fairbarin, in an analogous art disclosed, “comparing a preset house code to the house code included in the packet; and one of the adapters understanding that the packet is directed to the one of the adapters if the two house codes are in conformity as a result of the comparison, and transferring the packet to one of the home appliances connected thereto.” (refer to Page 6, Lines 10-27).

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Fairbarin, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to prevent the data signal to corrupt by the spurious other signals on the network. .

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Ahmed by including the features presented by Fairbarin.

Art Unit: 2451

Although Ahmed and Fairbarin disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed and Fairbarin are silent regarding “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;”

Cunningham disclosed “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;” (refer to 0040)

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Cunningham, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to provide an user-friendly and flexible environment while providing a high degree of security

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the systems of Ahmed and Fairbarin by including the features presented by Cunningham.

2. Referring to Claim 3, a method as claimed in claim 1, Ahmed disclosed “making access to a house code managing site on the Internet in the program includes the step of making an automatic access to the house code managing site once the information for the adapter is provided.”(refer to Col 7, Lines 16-17 and Col 8, Lines 6-14)

Although Ahmed and Fairbarin disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed and Fairbarin are silent regarding “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;”

Cunningham disclosed “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;” (refer to 0040)

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Cunningham, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to provide an user-friendly and flexible environment while providing a high degree of security

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the systems of Ahmed and Fairbarin by including the features presented by Cunningham.

3. Referring to Claim 4, a method as claimed in claim 1, although Ahmed disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed is silent in regarding "comprising the step of the adapters disregarding the received packet if the two house codes are not in conformity as the result of comparison."

Fairbarin, in an analogous art disclosed, "comprising the step of the adapters disregarding the received packet if the two house codes are not in conformity as the result of comparison." (refer to Page 5, Lines 24-27).

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Fairbarin, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to prevent the data signal to corrupt by the spurious other signals on the network. .

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Ahmed by including the features presented by Fairbarin.

Conclusion

Examiner's Notes: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner. In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen C. Tang whose telephone number is (571)272-3116. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7 - 3.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/K. C. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 2451

/John Follansbee/ SPE 2451